



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

October 6, 2005

For immediate release

- 1. ICN hearing announced for water quality standards**
- 2. Forum to discuss winter fuel prices and supplies**

ICN HEARING ANNOUNCED FOR WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

DES MOINES — In addition to previously announced hearings across the state, Iowans can provide their input on proposed changes to Iowa's water quality standards through an Iowa Communications Network (ICN) hearing Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

Water quality standards are the cornerstone for many of the DNR's water quality programs. The standards define uses for rivers, streams and lakes in determining what the level of water quality should be for each water body. Some standards are oriented toward providing a safe supply of drinking water, some are designed to protect aquatic life and wildlife, and some are to ensure safe recreational uses for the public, such as swimming. The proposed rule changes will only affect recreational and aquatic life uses.

Iowa's water quality standards are in the beginning stages of major revisions. As the standards change, some wastewater treatment facilities and industries may need to make significant changes to meet the new standards.

"We expect these rules to improve water quality," said Wayne Gieselman, head of DNR environmental services. "Even though their activities aren't regulated under this rulemaking, Iowa's private landowners and agricultural producers will also have to take responsibility to assist in making significant improvements in our water quality."

The ICN hearing will originate from Room 300 of Saydel High School, 5601 NE 7th St. in Des Moines, and will include a short presentation followed by the public hearing. Iowans outside of Des Moines can participate at one of the following ICN locations:

Cedar Rapids

Prairie High School, 401 76th Ave. SW

Directions: Enter high school parking lot, follow street to the right around back of building to new circular addition. Signs are posted on the street taking you around to new addition. Use the south door of the west wing in rear main building, follow to room 203, located next to the library.

Davenport

Kimberly Center, 1002 West Kimberly

Directions: Enter SW door - straight down hall, room 119.

Fort Dodge

Fort Dodge High School, 819 N 25th St.

Directions: Use west main entrance and follow signs to room 12.

Spirit Lake

Spirit Lake High School, 2701 Hill Ave.

Directions: Enter only from the west parking lot. It is free to park on west side of building. Follow signs to Distance Learning Center.

Waterloo

West High School, intersection of Baltimore St. and Ridgeway Ave.

Directions: Use Baltimore St. entrance.

The proposed rules, or Notices of Intended Action, have been published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin and are available along with additional information regarding this rule making effort at www.iowadnr.com/water/standards/rulemaking.html.

Written suggestions and comments can also be submitted through Oct. 28 via mail, fax or e-mail. Send comments to:

Mail: Adam Schnieders, Iowa DNR; 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.

Fax: (515) 281-8895

E-mail: adam.schnieders@dnr.state.ia.us

Anyone who plans to attend a public hearing and has special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility, should contact Adam Schnieders at (515) 281-7409 or Chris Spoelstra at (515) 281-7503.

For more information, contact Adam Schnieders at (515) 281-7409 or Chris Spoelstra at (515) 281-7503.

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FORUM TO DISCUSS WINTER FUEL PRICES AND SUPPLIES

DES MOINES -- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will hold the 2005 Iowa Winter Fuels Forum in the Wallace Building Auditorium from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 20.

“This winter, heating expenditures are expected to rise anywhere from 30 to 44 percent, depending on the heating fuel sources,” said Jennifer Moehlmann, program planner with the DNR.

The forum will include winter fuel prices and supply forecasts from petroleum, natural gas and propane industry representatives as well as information on programs available to help facilities increase their energy efficiency to cushion the impact of higher prices.

For more information, contact Jennifer Moehlmann at (515) 281-8518 or Jennifer.Moehlmann@dnr.state.ia.us.